

Report to the Consumer on Water Quality

January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Díi kwe'é naaltsoos hasht'eelyaayí 'éi nit haz'ánigi tó baa 'áháyáá dóó yá'át'ééh óolzinigíi yaa halne'.

Doo bik'i'dinitjhgóó da, t'áá háida ta' níká'doolwot dóó hazhó'ó yee nit ch'ihodoo'áát.

Dear Water Consumer,

Last summer our community was faced with water resource challenges resulting from persistently dry seasons and low surface water levels. Thanks in a large part to your patient and diligent involvement in a community-wide water conservation effort, your Utilities Department was successful in maintaining a safe and adequate drinking water supply throughout the summer. On behalf of the Utilities Department, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your efforts to consume water efficiently and reduce peak demand last summer.

At this time, I am pleased to present you the 2002 City of Flagstaff *Report to the Consumer on Water Quality*. This annual report outlines where your drinking water comes from, how it is treated, and the results of tests performed on the quality of Flagstaff drinking water. Additionally, as mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this report informs you of contaminant levels in your drinking water, as well as violations incurred last year, among other important health information.

In 2002, the Utilities Department incurred violations for exceeding the maximum allowable level of turbidity in treated surface water. The violations occurred over the course of three days, from August 14, thru August 16, and on September 10. Turbidity is a measurement of water clarity and is continually monitored as an indicator of other potential contaminants such as bacteria and protozoa. Our surface waters have low susceptibility for bacteria and protozoa, as there is little to no industrial, agricultural or domestic waste disposal into our surface waters. The possible health effects, of bacteria and protozoa contamination include nausea, diarrhea and vomiting. There were no cases of health problems reported in association with this violation, and it is important to point out that sampling prior to and following the violation period were negative. High turbidity levels are a result of pretreatment failure or filter anomaly, and last year's violations were directly associated with the intermittent operation of the Lake Mary Treatment Plant. In an effort to improve surface water treatment, the Department is in the process of bringing a new filter system on-line this spring at the Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant.

Additionally, in an effort to ensure the safety of your water system, the Utilities Department has initiated a Vulnerability Assessment to evaluate potential threats and identify corrective actions that can reduce or mitigate the risk of serious consequences from adversarial actions. Such an assessment for a water system takes into account the vulnerability of the water supplies, both ground and surface water, transmission, treatment, and distribution systems. Completion of the Vulnerability Assessment is anticipated summer 2003.

It is the obligation of the Utilities Department to provide a safe and adequate supply of drinking water. To help please our customers and meet our obligation, the Utilities Department strongly encourages public input and community participation on decisions affecting your water resources. Regular Water Commission meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. Meeting locations are posted on the official City bulletin board at City Hall. Meetings begin at 4:00 PM and you are always welcome.

Copies of this report are available at the Utilities Administration Office, City

Hall 211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001, or on our web-site at www.flagstaff.az.gov. I hope this report provides you with valuable information about your drinking water that is easy to understand. We hope the results found in this report confirm that you can count on the City of Flagstaff for quality at the tap.

Ron Doba,
Director
Utilities Department

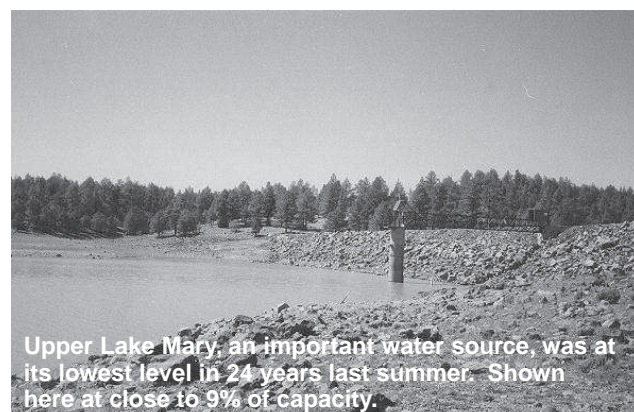
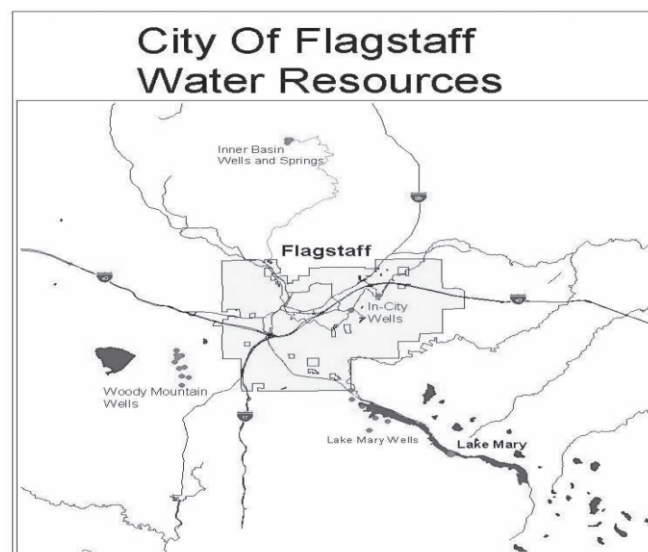
Water Sources

In 2002 the Utilities Department distributed approximately 2.87 billion gallons of water to Flagstaff water customers. Total water production remained the same as 2001 levels, which is attributable to a combination of effective water conservation strategies and drought conditions. A significant increase in water demand is expected during dry years, so the Utilities Department was pleased that production did not increase over last year. The Department finds that conservation programs have been effective with reducing summer peak demands, and anticipate implementing additional water conservation programs in the future.

The City of Flagstaff is supplied by surface water from Upper Lake Mary and the Inner Basin of the San Francisco Peaks. We also pump groundwater from the Woody Mountain Wellfield, Lake Mary Wellfield, and other Local wells, which tap the Coconino and Supai Aquifers. Two more local wells are anticipated to come on-line this year. These sources blend in the water distribution system and the amount of water coming from each source varies throughout the year.

What does the Following Table Mean?

The table shows the results of our water-quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detected in the water, even in minute traces, is listed here. The Utilities Department conducted 1,921 tests for 104 contaminants in 2002. The information in the following table only addresses detected contaminants. We have chosen not to report information for contaminants



Upper Lake Mary, an important water source, was at its lowest level in 24 years last summer. Shown here at close to 9% of capacity.